

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR ESTIMATING NOISE IN SPEECH SIGNALS**Abstract of the Disclosure**

Noise in a speech signal is estimated using only the excitation value of the
5 speech signal. More specifically, an encoded speech signal (i.e., bit stream) is partially
decoded to obtain an excitation parameter. The excitation parameter is used as input
to estimate the noise level of the speech signal. In one example, the excitation
parameter is the fixed codebook gain of the speech signal. The fixed codebook gain is
multiplied by a scaling factor (e.g., constant value) and then used as input for noise
10 estimation. The scaling factor can also be variable and computed as a function of
adaptive codebook gain that is also obtained from the partially decoded bit stream.